

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art, alone or in combination, teaches the Applicant's invention of a toothbrush brush head assembly comprised of a toothbrush stem, a bristle plate having a cavity and a duck bill valve assembly which includes at least two duck bill valves and a flexible flange member joining the valves in a unitary assembly such that the valves are flexibly movable relative to each other and the unitary assembly is insertable into and removable from the cavity as a unit. It is noted that the phrase "toothbrush brushhead assembly" is considered to define a brushhead assembly of a conventional toothbrush.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Walczak whose telephone number is 571-272-4895. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 6:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huson Gregory can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3751

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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